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News from Cambridge:

Or ; a Brief

RELATION

Of the Wicked Proceedings of Three Informers.

VIZ.

13
Stephen Perry, Tinker. Edward Wallis, Cobler. And Christopher Herrod, Labourer.

Who have informed and falsly swore against many of his Majesties peaceable subjects in and about Cambridge.

Two of these Informers, Viz. *Stephen Perry*, and *Edward Wallis*, are now indicted for perjury, and *Christopher Herrod* is now in prison for speaking against his Highness the Duke of York.

With an accompt of the names of those that suffered, and how they were proceeded against.

And they suffered joyfully the spoyleing of their goods, &c.

Through many tribulations you shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.

Printed for Richard Berry. 1675.

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Or, a Brief

RELATION

Of the Wicked Proceedings of Three Informers.

VIZ.

Stephen Terry, Thomas Edward White, Collier, And Christopher Hawes, Labourer.

Who have informed and falsly swore against many of his Majesty's subjects in the County of Cambridge.

Of these Informers, Viz. Stephen Terry, and Edward White, are now indicted for perjury, and Christopher Hawes is now in prison for speaking against his Highness the Duke of York.

With an account of the names of those that suffered, and how they were proceeded against.

And they suffered joyfully the paying of their goods, &c.

That many tribulations you shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.

Printed by Richard Bayly 1677.

A Brief Relation of the Perjury and

False Swearing of Three Wicked Informers against his Majesties Peaceable Subjects, in or about Cambridge, viz. Stephen Perry Tinker, Edward Wallis Cobler, Christopher Harrad Labourer.

I shall begin with Perry.

First, of the beginnings of this Notorious retch in his False Swearing against divers for Meeting at Mr. Willsons in St. Andrews Parish, as he pretended, for he was not there, as it will be made appear: he gave in his Oath perticularly against Job Hall for being at the Meeting, who knowing himself not to be there, did Travice the Indictment, and upon the Travice, Perry did again Swear it, whereupon he was find five pound, and forty Shillings Charges of the Court, for the Traviceing the Indictment, but twenty Shillings was returned him again. Likewise he swore against Ellin Allin and Sarah Lockwood for being at the same Meeting: they knowing themselves not to be there, they pleaded it to the Justices, whereupon they put them to Traverce the Indictment next Sessions, being come, and upon the Traverce they brought witness to prove that they were elsewhere, notwithstanding Perry swore it again, and upon his testimony they were fined twenty Shillings a piece, and besides paid the charges of the Court; I might give you the Names of abundance of persons which he swore against, that were not there: but I have not room in this sheet to mention half, onely these few: Mrs. Hills Widow, Mr. Emery, Mrs. Raper, Henry Spakeman, and John Spakeman: Observe by the way that this John Spakeman was 20 Mills off Cambridge that day, as can be proved.

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He swore against *Mr. Yeman* for being at a Meeting at *Mrs. Pettis* in the Evening, when he knew not of it, and for a proof of his not being there, a Scholler that lodged in his house, and a Servant-Maid did attest it in the Court that *Mr. Yeman* was not out of his own house that night: then *Perry* said he was mistaken, it was his man: yet upon Traviçe he again swore that the said *Mr. Yeman* was there: He swore against *John Squire* for being at the said meeting, when it was proved that he was not there. Likewise he swore against *William Rogers*, and *Lydia Brown*; whereas both proved in Court that they were not there.

At the Quarter Sessions he useth to give in the names of a hundred or more, to the Grand Quest at Quarter Sessions, to have them presented for not going to their Parish Church to hear Divine Service, some for three months, and some for six, and others for nine and eleven months, which is impossible for any one man to know, much more to swear that so many belonging to thirteen Parishes, and all of them absent from their Parish Church upon one and the same day. I might here bring in a many more that he swore against.

To begin with *Tho. Bland* of St. Sepulchres Parish, he was presented by Oath made by *Perry* for Eleven months absent from his Parish Church: but to satisfy the Court, *Tho. Bland* procured a Certificate from *Mr. Morland*, Minister of the same Parish, wherein he did certify that this *Tho. Bland* was not absent from his Parish Church, two Lords days together of the Eleven months: the Justices thereupon called the Fore-man of the Grand Inquest, which was *Mr. James Alders*, to know who it was that did upon Oath present *Tho. Bland*, *Tho. Bland*,
Answer

Answer was made, *Stephen Perry*, whereupon *Mr. Peapes* Recorder, and the *Major*, and *Vice-Chamberlain* did desire *Tho. Bland* to present a Bill of Indictment against *Perry* for his false swearing.

At the same sessions, *Richard Alcock* was presented for divers months absence from his Parish Church, which was proved to be Notoriously false.

Perry swore against *John Derrington*, servant to *Mr. Tims*, *Edward Spickman*, and *Elijah Wods*, for absenting from their Parish Church, which was proved to the contrary.

Though *Perry's* name rings throughout all *Cambridge*, for his false swearing, yet he regards it not, but the next Sessions attempts the like again, after taking his Oath went to the grand inquest and presented a long roll of paper, with the names of one hundred persons to have them persecuted for not coming to their parish Church; some for three months, and others for six and for 11 Months: One *Mr. Thomas Walker* asked him how he durst swear against so many at once for absenting from their Parish Church? he was not able to answer him; by the which means he was silenced and returned, so nothing was done that time.

But further observe his false swearing against Divers Inhabitants in and about *Cambridge*, since the late Act against Conventicles was in force.

After all his former disappointment in his false swearing, he is now like a man awakened again that had been in a dead sleep, he now resolves to be a Ring-leader to all informers thereabouts. One *Wallis* who had tutored him in the act of swearing all a long; so his swearing was against the Fanatics, he counted his swearing though
falsely,

falsely, would go for zeal for the Church.

Now the Master and the Man go hand in hand, they made sure of great revenues that would come in to them.

The first Lords day after the Act was in force, *Wallis* with two more and *Perry* went to *Cotterham*, where they here was a Meeting intended: *Wallis* being come before the Minister was come, but people was walking up and down, some in the field, and some in the yard; *Wallis* finding a few persons in the Barn of the Widdow *Briggs*, he commanded them to depart, but instead of departing the number increased; he with a more swore a Meeting of about one hundred persons, or more, and great fines was laid upon many of them that was not in the Barn. A while after *Edward Wallis* with *Perry* his Man, and *Bilips* another of the same crew, swore against *John Spakeman* of *Cambridge* for being at a Meeting at Mr. *Avies* of *Hoginton*: When the said *John Spakeman* was not there that Day: but *Edward Wallis* meeting of one *William Jordan* coming from Mr. *Avies* house would know his name, the man refusing to tell him; Well saith *Wallis*, I know your Name is *John Spakeman*; and after this meeting was over they go all three informers and swear to the magistrates who they saw at the meeting, and swore against a many that was not there, among the rest that was not there they all three swear that they saw this said *John Spakeman* there; Upon which Oaths of theirs a Warrant is granted for the said *John Spakeman* to pay 10 pounds, he denyed the payment knowing himself not to be there; Whereupon distress was made upon his goods, he enters his appeal against the next Sessions, hoping to have some relief: Sessions being come: *Bilips* one of the informers hearing that *John Spakeman* would prove by several witnesses that he was not out of
Cambridge

Cambridge that day: but could prove that he was at home the same hour that the informers had swore against him: *Bilips* resolves that he would not appear the next sessions, but was made to confesse his fault, and all that he could say was that he vvas prevailed upon by *Wallis* and *Perry*, to swear against a man he knew not, nor never saw him as he knew of; *Bilips* said if *Spakeman* had required it he vwould a declared it in open Court; this he said to *Peter Lightfoot*, *Thomas Bland*, and *Henry Spakeman* at his own house, and he further told them that he see *Wallis* and *Perry* vwould swear to any thing, but he would have no more to do vvith them, he said hitherto he hath made his words good.

But to see the obstinancy of these forsworn wretches, they did confidently swear upon the apeal at the sessions, that *John Spakeman* vvas their, though *Wallis* did declare to one *Edward Day* that he vvas mistaken, he did not know *John Spakeman*; this Mr. *Day* did testifie in open Sessions, yet *Wallis* swore againe Sir *Thomas Wallis* that did sit as Judge that day at Sessions, did declare that for his part he was satisfied that *John Spakeman* was not Guilty, but bad the Jury go out and consider of it: but by the way take notice that the Foreman of the Jury, by Name *Bates* of *Newton*, who is looked upon to be as bad as *Wallis* or *Perry*, and therefore fit to bring about their business, the Jury goes out, and in a little time bring in *John Spakeman* Guilty, and he is made to pay treble the Cost, which did amount to sixteen pound.

Perry did swear a meeting to be at the Castle in *S. Andrews* parish in *Cambridge*, to the Number of a Hundred persons; and it was proved out of his own mouth that he was not there till the Meeting was done, and the people disperced, as the two Constables of the parish did upon Oath testified to the major. This

This being their constant custom to swear against several people, as being meeters though they were never at a meeting, to their utter ruine, but to proceed.

He swore also that he see *Thomas Cambridge* a Carrier at a Meeting, when it 'tis to be proved he was 30 miles from *Cambridge* at that time. Likewise *Perry*, & *Harwood*, one Lords day going to *Haginton*, being disappointed they go towards *Willingam*, and on the way two miles one side, they meet one *George Taylor* a Quaker of *Chester*, coming home, and *Taylor* after he had past them hard, *Perry* said to his brother *Harwood*, set down *Taylor*, he hath been at a Meeting; going forward they find a Quakers Meeting at *Willingham*, they swear the said *Taylor* in amongst the rest, and he was fined 10 pounds, and a Load of Barly, and a Cart was distrained from him and sold to make moneys.

Likewise he made oath against *James Smith*, *Mrs. Pettie* and her daughter, *John Toft* in the Grove of one *Richard Days*, the man was fined 20 pound, and the other 5 pound a piece. He swore a Meeting at one *Thomas Bland*'s house of about 7 persons: all the Business was reading over a sermon preached at *Qui*; he swore *Thomas Bland* to be the Preacher, and that his Text was in *Isaiah*; this said *Thomas Bland* was fined 20 pound for his house, and 20 pound for speaking, onely 7 pound 10 shillings of it was laid upon *Mr. Richard Bates*.

But to conclude having given you a short account of the wicked proceeding of *Wallis*, *Perry*, and *Harwood*, all of them informers, living at *Cambridge*, and of the great damages divers of his Majesties subjects hath sustained by their false swearing, but I cannot give you an account of above half their wicked Actions, but now 2 of them is indicted for perjury: viz, *Stephen Perry* & *Christopher Harwood*.

F I N I S.

